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Some of the immediate effects will be a large increase of the number of adherents to the organized peace movement throughout the civilized world, the strengthening of the peace and arbitration organizations in public confidence, the lifting of the whole peace propaganda to a position of greater vantage, the hastening of the conclusion of further treaties of obligatory arbitration, the increase of public respect for the international court at The Hague, and the enlargement of the demand for the creation of a congress of the nations to meet at stated periods. It will be difficult, after such a congress as this has been, to laugh any longer at the aims of the peace advocates as chimerical. One may hope also that the Congress will have done something to give pause to the growing spirit of militarism among certain classes of our fellow-citizens.

But the chief value of the Congress after all has been not so much what it will immediately effect as the remarkable revelation which it has made of the enormous recent development of public interest in the establishment of permanent peace among the nations and the banishment from human society of the plague of war and militarism. This desire for settled peace and order among the nations has now grown to be a strong and persistent demand among nearly all classes of men, and it can never again be suppressed until it is heard and satisfied. Governments are bowing before it, and statesmen, kings and presidents are becoming its mouthpieces. The Boston Peace Congress has brought to the movement a clear consciousness of its great magnitude and strength, and the inspiration and courage which this revelation will produce will justly entitle it to rank as one of the most influential international gatherings ever held.

The North Sea Incident and the Hague Convention.

The unfortunate North Sea occurrence, in which British fishermen of Hull were killed by shots from the Russian Baltic fleet starting East, and which for a day or two threatened open rupture between Great Britain and Russia, has brought to public attention one of the most beneficent provisions of the Convention signed at The Hague July 29, 1899. This provision, contained in Section 3, Article 9, is as follows:

"In differences of an international nature involving neither honor nor vital interests, and arising from a difference of opinion on matter of fact, the Signatory Powers recommend that parties who have not been able to come to an agreement by diplomatic methods, should, as far as circumstances allow, institute an International Commission of Inquiry to facilitate a solution of the differences by elucidating the

facts, by means of an impartial and conscientious investigation."

The Convention provides further that the report of such a Commission shall not be considered an arbitral decision. Its whole work is simply a preliminary thorough investigation of the facts. The governments creating such a commission may of course, if they choose to do so, give it larger power than that contemplated in the Convention.

This important provision had lain entirely dormant until the Anglo-Russian North Sea crisis came. A point in the diplomatic correspondence was reached after the reception of the Russian admiral's report at St. Petersburg, when a serious difference of opinion as to the facts of the case appeared. This difference, if not removed, might easily, and certainly would, have led to hostilities, as perversion or ignorance of facts has been always a prolific source of war.

The two governments at once, on the suggestion of M. Delcassé, the French Foreign Minister, in a spirit of friendliness and with sincere desire to avoid the calamity of war, instead of allowing things to drift swiftly and hopelessly to a catastrophe, followed their obligations under the Hague Convention, of which both were signatories, and decided to put this provision for a Commission of Inquiry into operation. The Czar of Russia seems, from the reports, to have acted promptly in a spirit of the utmost friendliness and fairness, and his course undoubtedly saved us the spectacle of a bitter war which might have involved all Western Europe.

When the Commission of Inquiry appointed by the two governments has done its work and determined the facts, then the difficulty may be settled either by direct diplomatic negotiation or by reference to the Hague Court. The Russian government seems, in the arrangement, to have undertaken to punish the guilty officers, if the English interpretation of the event should be sustained by the investigation. But the facts may be found too complicated to admit of this manner of procedure, and the arbitration of the case by the Hague Court may be found necessary.

This turn in what at first threatened to be a very sharp conflict has given great relief and satisfaction everywhere, even in England, where anger at the Russian naval officers was at first at white heat. The pacific arrangement of the affair is of incalculable importance in giving further strength to the principle of pacific settlement of disputes among the nations. The machinery provided by the Hague Conference has been given greater prestige, and the peace of the world may now be considered to be on a stronger and surer basis than ever before.

The two governments cannot be too highly praised for their self-restraint, good judgment and conciliatory spirit under the excitement and clamor of the moment. Their loyalty to their own recommendations in the

Hague Convention is most creditable to them. In the spirit in which they have acted, a full and satisfactory settlement of the case, honorable to both parties, will be easy after the facts have been impartially and judicially determined.

But in spite of this encouraging turn of the case, there are features of the episode which do not allow us to persuade ourselves that peace will just take care of itself hereafter. The manner in which masses of the English people, egged on, it seems, by some of the newspapers, went mad and would have plunged the nation headlong into a disastrous war without allowing time for investigation is most disheartening. The same storm of passion would probably have burst forth, under similar circumstances, in several other countries. The mob spirit is, alas! all too widely prevalent among the so-called civilized peoples; and until this is uprooted and the spirit of self-restraint, patience and respect for law substituted for it, there can be no assurance that in sudden emergencies, like that of which we are speaking, war will be avoided. There is still an enormous educational task before the friends of peace and order in this direction.

Again, the episode reveals the far-reaching peril of any war which is allowed to break out in our time. This occurrence was a direct fruit of the war in the Far East. Others like it may occur before the war closes, as similar ones have already occurred in Oriental waters. It has often been remarked that, owing to the intimate commercial and other relations between modern nations, a war anywhere now is a war everywhere. All the nations feel it and suffer from it. But this event reveals the peculiar danger in our day of a war actually extending its flames to other even remote parts of the globe. The war fleets of the naval powers are on all seas, mingling with the commercial and other fleets, and it ought to surprise no one that the fleet of a nation engaged in actual hostilities should, in trying to protect itself from sudden attacks of its enemy, fall into commission of acts fraught with grave danger to the general peace.

This fact ought to make all the governments which have signed the Hague Convention more determined than they have yet shown themselves to prevent, by every means provided in that great instrument, war from breaking out between any two of them. If the other twenty powers which have ratified the Convention had joined in a solemn protest to Russia and Japan against their fighting, coupled with a serious joint offer of their good offices, it is not probable that a single shot would ever have been fired in the region where hideous Slaughter now reigns. The time has come for this body of civilized powers to quit playing at mediation. It will be to their everlasting dishonor if they do not hereafter at least seriously attempt, with the whole weight of their joint action, under the solemn Convention into which they have entered, to prevent war anywhere within their circle.

Notes on the Peace Congress.

Of the 188 organizations which sent delegates to the Congress, 55 were distinctively peace and arbitration societies; 45 were churches, church clubs and ministerial unions; 34 were women's societies; 18 philanthropic and benevolent societies; 15 labor organizations; 4 boards of trade; 4 chambers of commerce; 1 state teachers' association; and 13 miscellaneous organizations. Fifty-seven of these organizations were from foreign countries, and 131 from the United States.

Daily religious services during the week of the Congress were held at 9 A. M. in the South Congregational Church, corner of Exeter and Newbury Streets. These meetings were organized on the initiative of Dr. Edward Everett Hale, and were participated in by ministers and others from several different denominations. The services were each day under the leadership of a minister of a different religious body.

There were seventeen members and ex-members of European parliaments in the Congress. Ten of these were from Great Britain, two from Belgium, three from Italy, one from Sweden and one from Norway. All of these had attended the Conference of the Interparliamentary Union at St. Louis before coming to Boston. Two ex-members of the United States Congress were also members of the Congress.

All of the foreign delegates, of whom there were nearly a hundred, who preferred entertainment in private homes, were given it, and they were all, so far as we have heard, warm in their praises of the generous hospitality offered them by citizens of Boston and vicinity.

A good deal of interest was aroused at the session of the Congress at which a distinguished citizen of Japan, an editor, now in New York City, and a Russian physician residing in Boston, rising above the hostile feelings at the present time animating their two countries, shook hands with each other upon the platform as fellow-men. It was pathetic but noble — *infinitely* more noble than the manner in which their compatriots are slaughtering each other in Manchuria by the tens of thousands.

The Stenographic Report of the proceedings of the Congress will be published at the earliest possible date. There is a great mass of material to sift and edit, and the report, which will make from three to four hundred pages, cannot well be completed for two or three months. All those who wish copies will kindly send their names with the number of copies desired to the Secretary, 31 Beacon St., and a statement of how much they are willing to contribute towards the publication.